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Philippines

Grain and Feed

Philippine Rice Research Institute Transferred 2002

Approved by:

Charles T. Alexander

US Embassy

Prepared by:

Perfecto G. Corpuz

Report Highlights:

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last March 4, 2002 issued Executive Order No. 76 (EO 76) which transferred the Philippine Rice Research Institute from the Department of Agriculture (DA) to the Office of the President.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Manila [RP1], RP

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PHILRICE) was recently transferred to the Office of the President (OP) from the Department of Agriculture (DA) after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last March 4, 2002 issued Executive Order No. 76 (EO 76). The move reportedly underscores the Arroyo's administration's emphasis on the use of hybrid rice as a strategy to increase food production, generate jobs, and raise farmers incomes and was made for closer administrative supervision. EO 76 took effect immediately and declared, among others, that:

1. PHILRICE will be the lead agency responsible for the Hybrid Rice Program (Program) created under Administrative Order No. 25 (refer to RP2009).
2. Designates the Presidential Adviser for One Million Jobs as PHILRICE Chairman. The latter position was created congruent to the Presidential promise during her first State of the Nation Address to provide a million jobs (refer to RP1035).
3. Instructs the Department of Agriculture to allocate and realign the amount of P450 million from its Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Program budget as funding support for the Program.

Several agency-transfers affecting the DA have been made since President Arroyo assumed office. Earlier, the National Food Authority (NFA) and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) were also transferred from the DA to the OP. There are rumors, however, that the NFA and the PCA will soon revert back to the DA.

EO 76 is another move that seeks to make the country self-sufficient in rice. Weather permitting, Post expects self-sufficiency in the next 2 -3 years.